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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

APR - 3 1998

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)	
)	
)	CC Docket No. 92-237
)	
Administration of the)	
North American Numbering Plan)	
Carrier Identification Codes (CICs))	

REPLY COMMENTS

Americatel Corporation, through its attorneys, hereby submits these reply comments in response to the submissions of several other parties in the above-captioned proceedings. Americatel's Comments, filed March 6, demonstrated that Carrier Identification Codes (CICs) are an important tool for supporting the Commission's goal of developing a competitive long distance market in the United States, because they permit dial-around access as an alternative to presubscription. There is a growing international recognition, not only in the countries mentioned in Americatel's Comments but also in several European countries, that access codes provide an effective means of promoting competition and enhancing consumer choice, thereby serving the public interest. As a result, Americatel believes that when making decisions about the assignment, use and management of CICs, the Commission should carefully consider the potential impact on this burgeoning market. The comments of the other parties to this proceeding fail to recognize the importance of this use of CICs for promoting competition.

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List ABCDE

1. Carrier Identification Codes Have Commercial Value

MCI's Reply Comments at 9-10 stated that, unlike toll free numbers, CICs are not commercial commodities and have little or no independent commercial value to telecommunications carriers. This statement is clearly wrong with respect to the dial-around long distance market. In the dial-around market, CICs have a uniqueness that has commercial value. To offer but a few examples, Vartec and MCI have advertised their access codes extensively; AT&T was assigned the CIC 288 which spells ATT; and Americatel believes that its own CIC, 123, has commercial value because it is easy to remember. Thus, those CICs that are used consciously by consumers when completing calls are similar to toll free numbers and have commercial value. Furthermore, Americatel's market research demonstrates that a significant percentage of consumers are already discouraged from trying dial-around long distance service due to the length of the access code (10XXX) which must be dialed. (Excerpts from the Hispanic Telephone Study prepared for Americatel by Hispanic Market Connections, Inc. are attached.) Therefore, proposed changes to CICs and/or to related dialing patterns should carefully consider the impact on consumers of such changes.

2. Numbering Policies Should Serve the Marketplace

Some parties take the view that no limits should be placed on either the number of CICs assigned to an entity or on the uses made of the CICs. Americatel believes that its proposal on limiting the CIC assignment, and use of shorter CICs strictly for access to long distance carriers

and for traffic routing and billing purposes best serves the Commission's stated goal "to establish a plan for the distribution and management of CICs that minimizes the frequency of CIC expansion while promoting competition to the greatest extent possible." (Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order, ¶ 11) It would permit new services in the marketplace (using alternative technologies or longer CICs) while at the same time preserving the viability of the dial-around industry as a competitive alternative to presubscription (by maintaining a dialing pattern that is simple, attractive and easy-to-use by consumers). The process of blanket conversions of CICs and large scale changes in numbering plans are complicated, expensive and disruptive to carriers and consumers. Americatel strongly supports a competitive marketplace and it is for that very reason that Americatel believes that the Commission should not allow the indiscriminate assignment of CICs that has the, perhaps unintended, consequence of undermining the success of an important segment of the long distance market, the dial-around industry. As it is, Americatel continues to believe that enough issues remain open that the elimination of three digit CICs should be delayed until the issues are resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICATEL CORPORATION

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April 3, 1998

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Reply Comments of Americatel Corporation were hand delivered on this 3rd day of April 1998 to the following parties.

Frank K. Peterson

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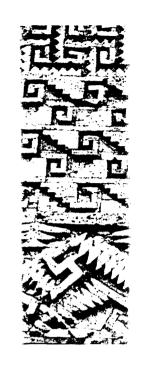
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11/20 PM

HSPANIC MARKET INC.



Bilingual/Bicultural Market Research



HISPANIC TELEPHONE STUDY
Banner I

March 1997

Prepared for: Americatel

Prepared by: Hispanic MARKET CONNECTIONS, INC.

TABLE 241

Concept 2 w/o Don Francisco: Not Aware of Don Francisco
35E. What part of the concept makes you say you not very/not at all willing to dial?
Base: Very/Somewhat willing to dial

				ENDER	INCOME				DIST C	ARRIER			ALLS IN		AVE # INT'L CALLS				
		TOTAL UNWGHTD	•	FEMALE		\$20-		-	MCI	·		(1-3)	(4-10) MEDIUM	(11+) HEAVY		(1-3)	(4-10) MEDIUM	(11+) HEAVY	
TOTAL	85 100.0 %	88 100.0 %	34 100.0 % (C)	52 100.0 % (D)	10 100.0 % (E)	6 100.0 % (F)	38 100.0 % (G)	55 100.0 % (H)	5 100.0 % (I)	5 100.0 % (J)	20 100.0 % (K)	12 100.0 % (L)	26 100.0 % (M)	26 100.0 % (N)	68 100.0 % (0)	7 100.0 % (P)	5 100.0 % (Q)	6 100.0 % (R)	
No Answer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Any Response	85 100.0	88 100.0	34 100.0	52 100.0	10 100.0	6 100.0	38 100.0	55 100.0	5 100.0	5 100.0	20 100.0	12 100.0	26 100.0	26 100.0	68 100.0	7 100.0	5 100.0	6 100.0	
5-digit access code	27 31.6	32 36.4	13 38. <i>7</i>	14 26.9	6.2	3 45.5	14 37.4	21 39. 0	25.3	2 32.2	5 23.9	6 44.5	8 28.6	9 34.4	22 31.9	1 15.0	1 25.3	3 52.3	
No need to switch carriers	19 21.7	15 17.0	26.9	10 18.4	6G 60.7	1 19.8	4 10.4	8 15.3	-	3 58.2	30.9	1 4.0	3 13.2	8 31.6	14 20.7	23.6	1 11.9	38.7	
It has experience/I am happy with the company	14 16.8	13 14.8	5 13.7	10 18.8	2 16.3	1 8.6	7 19.3	10 18.8	2 51.2	-	2 11.7	3 26.0	8 29.1	1 4.0	14 21.2	•	-	-	
Prefers English/Doesn't speak Spanish	5 5.9	4.5	1 1.6	8.7	-	-	4 11.7	3 4.8	-	-	-	-	3 1 3. 1	2 6.1	3 4.3	2 22.6	•	9.0	
Lack of information/Unsure of the cost/Needs to know more	5 5.9	4 4.5	1 1.6	8.7	-	-	5 11.8	1 0.9	1 11.7	-	2.6	-	2 8.1	2 9.0	3 5.1	2 22.6	-	-	
Available to anyone	4 4.5	7 8.0	3 8.2	1 2.1	1 11.5	1 17.5	1 1.4	4.0	1 11.9	-	1 5.9	1 4.4	1 4.1	1 3.9	4 5.7	-	-	-	
Doesn't use the phone that much/ long distance/doesn't live in country	2 1.8	3 3.4	1 1.5	1 2.1	1 5.3	1 8.6	-	11.9	-	•	1 5.3	-	1 1.9	•	2.3	-	-	-	
Competitive Prices	0.8	1.1	-	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.2	-	-	•	-	9.2	-	-	
I don't like the changes/Too busy/ Doesn't need	1 0.6	1.1	-	1 1.0	-	-	-	1 1.0	-	-	•	1 4.3	-	-	-	-	1 11.7	-	
Available anytime	0.6	1.1	-	1 1.0	-	-	-	1 0.9	•	-	1 2.5	-	•	-	1 0.7	-	-	-	
Don Francisco is an owner	1 0.6	1.1	1 1.5	-	-	-	1 1.3	•	-	-	1 2.5	-	•	-	0.7	-	-	-	
It is complicated/It is not useful	0.6	1.1	-	1 1.0	-	-	1 1.3	-	•	1 9.6	-	-	-	1 1.9	0.7	-	-	-	

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TABLE 241 (continued)

Concept 2 w/o Don Francisco: Not Aware of Don Francisco

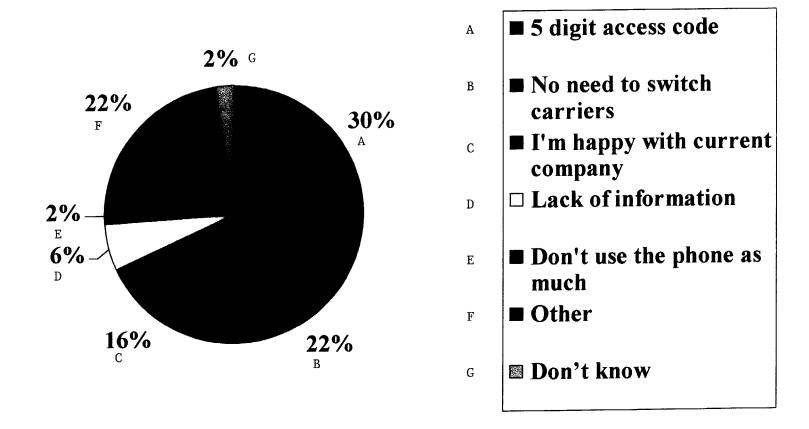
35E. What part of the concept makes you say you not very/not at all willing to dial?

Base: Very/Somewhat willing to dial

			_	ENDER	/	INCOME				ARRIER	-		ALLS IN		AVE # INT'L CALLS					
		TOTAL UNWGHTD		-		\$20-	•			SPRINT		(1-3)		(11+)		(1-3)	(4-10) MEDIUM			
Other	4 5.2	3 3.4	6.2	2 4.6	-	-	2 4.2	4 8.1	-	-	-	2 12.8	1 1.9	9.0	2 2.4	7.1	20 51.2	-		
Don't know/Refused	2 2.8	1.1	-	2 4.6	-	-	-	2 4.3	-	•	2 11.7	-	-	-	2 3.5	•	-	-		
None	1 0.6	1 1.1	-	1 1.0	-	-	1 1.3	1 0.9	-	-	-	1 4.0	•	-	1 0.7	-	-	-		

⁽sig=.05) (n_k) columns tested CD, EFG, HIJ, KLMN, OPQR
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What reasons would people not be willing to dial a 5-digit long distance access code



Source: Hispanic Market Connections, Inc., March 1997

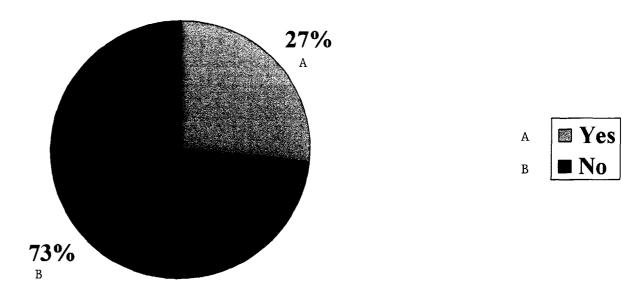
TABLE 059

10C. Have you ever used the services offered by this type of long distance company?

Base: Heard of saving access codes

										WEIGHTED													
			<=====	======	MARKET	WNU)	EIGHTED)	>	L		SEGMEN			======	AGE	YEARS IN THE US						
	TOTAL WGHTD	TOTAL UNWGHTD	LA	NY	MIA	SF	CHI	SA	HOU	SPAN DOMT	SPAN PREF	BILING	ENGL PR/DM	18-29		40-54		0-10	11-20	21+			
TOTAL	792 100.0 %	789 100.0 %	142 100.0 % (C)	94 100.0 % (D)	111 100.0 % (E)	103 100.0 % (F)	105 100.0 % (G)	119 100.0 % (H)	115 100.0 % (1)	157 100.0 % (J)	223 100.0 % (K)	310 100.0 % (L)	102 100.0 % (M)	191 100.0 % (N)	265 100.0 % (0)	220 100.0 % (P)	110 100.0 % (Q)	175 100.0 % (R)	141 100.0 % (S)	112 100.0 % (T)			
No Answer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Any Response	792 100.0	789 100.0	142 100.0	94 100.0	111 100.0	103 100.0	105 100.0	119 100.0	115 100.0	157 100.0	223 100.0	310 100.0	102 100.0	191 100.0	265 100.0	220 100.0	110 100.0	175 100.0	141 100.0	112 100.0			
Yes	212 26.7	202 25.6	39 27.5	27 28.7	35 31.5	18 17.5	28 26.7	32 26.9	23 20.0	39 24.7	65 29.3	90 29.0	17 17.1	53 27.5	72 27.1	53 24.1	34 30.5	47 26.8	53 37.7	31 27.5			
No	581 73.3	587 74.4	103 72.5	67 71.3	76 68.5	85 82.5	77 73.3	87 73.1	92 80.0	118 75.3	158 70.7	220 71.0	85 82.9	139 72.5	193 72.9	167 75.9	77 69.5	128 73 .2	88 62.3	81 72.5			

Have you ever used the 5 digit access code



Source: Hispanic Market Connections, Inc., March 1997

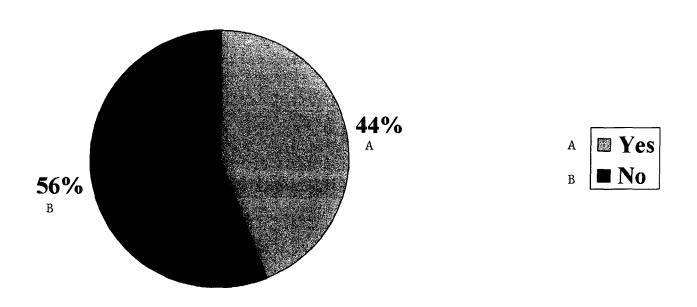
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TABLE 058
10B. Have you heard of these types of long distance companies that offer these savings access codes?

									4					WEI	GHTED				
		/ -		MARKET	(UNW	E I GHTED)		L	ANGUAGE	SEGMEN	TS	/		AGE	YEARS IN THE US			
	TOTAL TO WGHTD UNW	TAL GHTD LA	NY	MIA	SF	CHI	SA	HOU	SPAN DOMT	SPAN PREF	BILING	ENGL PR/DM	18-29	30-39	40-54	55+	0-10	11-20	21+
TOTAL		800 300 0.0 100.0 % %		250 100.0 % (E)	250 100.0 % (F)	250 100.0 % (G)	250 100.0 % (H)	250 100.0 % (I)	474 100.0 % (J)	529 100.0 % (K)	652 100.0 % (L)	146 100.0 % (M)	438 100.0 % (N)	629 100.0 % (0)	434 100.0 % (P)	280 100.0 % (Q)	460 100.0 % (R)	345 100.0 % (S)	286 100.0 % (T)
No Answer	-		-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-
Any Response		300 300 3.0 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	474 100.0	529 100.0	652 100.0	146 100.0	438 100.0	629 100.0	434 100.0	280 100.0	460 100.0	345 100.0	286 100.0
Yes		789 142 3.8 47.3	94 37.6	111 44.4	103 41.2	105 42.0	119 47.6	115 46.0	157 33.2	223 42.1	310J 47.6		(L 191 43.7	265 42.1	220Q 50.6	110 39.4	175 38.0	141 40.8	112 39.1
No		011 158 5.2 52.7	156 62.4	139 55.6	147 58.8	145 58.0	131 52.4	135 54.0	317LN 66.8	4 306M 57.9	342M 52.4	44 30.3	246 56.3	364 57.9	214 49.4	170P 60.6	285 62.0	204 59.2	175 60.9

⁽sig≃.05) (n_k) columns tested CDEFGHI, JKLM, NOPQ, RST
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People who have heard of 5 digit long distance access codes



Source: Hispanic Market Connections, Inc, March 1997



TABLE 060

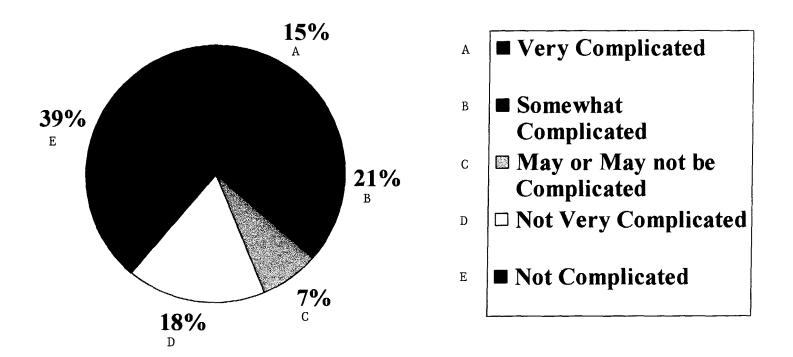
10D. When you think about having to dial the 5-digit access code in addition to the telephone number, would you say that doing so would be ...?

WEIGHTED

			MARKET (UNWEIGHTED)							L	ANGUAGE	SEGMEN	TS			AGE	YEARS IN THE US			
		TOTAL UNWGHTD	•	NY	MIA	SF	CHI	SA	HOU	SPAN DOMT	SPAN	BILING	ENGL	-	30-39		55+ 	0-10	11-20	
TOTAL	1801 100.0 %	1800 100.0 %	300 100.0 % (C)	250 100.0 % (D)	250 100.0 % (E)	250 100.0 % (F)	250 100.0 % (G)	250 100.0 % (H)	250 100.0 % (I)	474 100.0 % (J)	529 100.0 % (K)	652 100.0 % (L)	146 100.0 % (M)	438 100.0 % (N)	629 100.0 % (0)	434 100.0 % (P)	280 100.0 % (Q)	460 100.0 % (R)	345 100.0 % (S)	286 100.0 % (T)
No Answer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Any Response	1801 100.0	1800 100.0	300 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	250 100.0	474 100.0	529 100.0	652 100.0	146 100.0	438 100.0	629 100.0	434 100.0	280 100.0	460 100.0	345 100.0	286 100.0
(NET) Top 2 Box	635 35.3	634 35.2	108 36.0	85 34. 0	85 34. 0	82 32.8	101 40.4	84 33. 6	89 35.6	158 33. 3	211 39.8	216 33.1	51 34.9	133 30.3	235 37.3	158 36.5	107 38.1	165 35.9	124 35.9	115 40.3
(5) Very Complicated/Difficult	267 14.8	269 14.9	43 14.3	38 15.2	44 17.6	34 13.6	35 14.0	40 16.0	35 14.0	77 16.3	81 15.3	85 13.0	24 16.4	43 9.9	101 16.0	67 15.5	53N 18.9	63 13.7	55 15.9	59 20.6
<pre>(4) Somewhat Complicated/ Difficult</pre>	368 20.4	365 20.3	65 21.7	47 18.8	41 16.4	48 19.2	66 26.4	44 17.6	54 21.6	80 16.9	130 24.6	131 20.1	27 18.5	90 20.4	134 21.3	91 20.9	54 19.1	102 22.1	69 20.0	57 19.8
(3) May or May Not Be Complicated/Difficult	123 6.8	109 6.1	26 8.7	14 5.6	20 8.0	19 7.6	9 3.6	9 3.6	12 4.8	40 8.3	31 5.8	39 6.0	13 9.2	38 8.6	40 6.4	29 6.7	13 4.7	32 6.9	17 5.0	15 5.3
<pre>(2) Not Very Complicated/ Difficult</pre>	308 17.1	311 17.3	55 18.3	35 14.0	42 16.8	43 17.2	36 14.4	53 21.2	47 18.8	76 16.1	97 18.4	110 16.9	24 16.3	83 18.9	84 13.4	86 19.8	51 18.1	89 19.3	51 14.8	53 18.3
(1) Not Complicated/Difficult At All	675 37.5	684 38.0	105 35.0	102 40.8	94 37.6	101 40.4	96 38.4	89 35.6	97 38.8	184 38.8	178 33. 6	261 40.1	53 35.9	171 39. 0	252 40.1	149 34.3	93 33.2	168 36.6	139 40.4	86 30.0
(NET) Bottom 2 Box	983 54.6	995 55.3	160 53.3	137 54.8	136 54.4	144 57.6	132 52.8	142 56.8	144 57.6	260 55.0	275 51.9	372 57.0	76 52.2	254 58.0	336 53.5	234 54.1	144 51.3	257 55.8	190 55.2	139 48.4
Don't know	60 3. 3	62 3.4	2.0	14 5.6	9 3.6	5 2.0	8 3.2	15 6.0	2.0	16 3.4	13 2.4	25 3.8	5 3.7	14 3.1	17 2.7	12 2.8	17 5.9	7 1.4	13 3.9	17R 6.1
Mean	2.57	2.55	2.61	2.51	2.58	2.47	2.62	2.54	2.52	2.54	2.69	2.47	2.62	2.41	2.59	2.63	2.71	2.57	2.55	2.81
Standard Deviation	1.54	1.54	1.51	1.58	1.57	1.52	1.57	1.55	1.53	1.56	1.53	1.52	1.55	1.45	1.58	1.53	1.59	1.51	1.58	1.59
Standard Error	0.05	0.04	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.11	0.11

⁽sig=.05) (n_k) columns tested CDEFGHI, JKLM, NOPQ, RST
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What do people think about having to dial a 5-digit long distance access code



Source: Hispanic Market Connections, Inc., March 1997



TABLE 061
10E. How likely would you be to dial a 5-digit access code to take advantage of lower rates offered by a long distance company other than the one you currently subscribe to?

WEIGHTED MARKET (UNWEIGHTED) LANGUAGE SEGMENTS AGE YEARS IN THE US <==========>> TOTAL TOTAL SPAN SPAN **ENGL** WGHTD UNWGHTD LA NY SF SA HOU DOMT PREF BILING PR/DM 18-29 30-39 40-54 55+ 1801 1800 300 250 250 250 250 250 250 652 438 629 280 345 286 TOTAL 474 529 146 434 460 100.0 % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (0) (P) (Q) (R) **(S)** (T) No Answer 1800 300 250 250 250 250 250 250 474 529 438 280 1801 652 146 629 434 460 345 286 Any Response 100.0 906 898 147 136 131 130 128 114 112 208 290J 350J 59 2410 338Q 198 260T 177 126 (NET) Top 2 Box 118 50.3 49.9 49.0 54.4 52.4 52.0 51.2 45.6 44.8 43.8 54.8 53.7 40.2 55.0 53.8 45.6 42.0 56.5 51.2 44.0 (4) Very Likely 330 318 57 49 42 41 43 46 40 70 92 142 26 75 125 81 40 90 59 41 18.3 17.7 19.0 19.6 16.8 16.4 17.2 18.4 16.0 14.8 17.4 21.8 17.8 17.2 19.9 18.7 14.4 19.5 17.0 14.5 576 580 90 87 89 85 72 (3) Somewhat Likely 89 68 137 208 33 166PQ 213 77 85 118 32.2 30.0 34.0 27.2 29.0 32.0 34.8 35.6 35.6 28.8 37.4 31.9 22.5 37.8 33.8 27.0 27.6 37.0 34.2 29.5 (2) Not Very Likely 287 280 58 27 29 43 30 46 47 75 78 90 87 94 67 34 67 52 38 15.9 15.6 19.3 17.2 12.0 18.4 18.8 20.0 10.8 11.6 15.8 14.8 13.8 30.1 15.0 15.5 12.2 15.1 13.3 14.5 484 505 75 68 79 76 75 129 185 39 169 87 (1) Not Likely At All 66 66 131 89 139N 84N 107 27.2 31.6 26.8 28.1 25.0 26.4 26.4 30.4 30.0 27.6 24.3 28.4 26.7 20.4 32.0 23.3 26.2 26.9 29.9 30.2 (NET) Bottom 2 Box 770 785 133 111 109 122 122 206 207 275 263 174 83K 177 206 118 143 125 42.8 43.6 44.3 38.0 44.4 43.6 48.8 48.8 39.1 37.8 43.4 42.2 56.8 40.4 41.9 47.5 42.1 41.4 43.5 124 117 20 Don't know 24 13 14 16 60KLM 32 27 20 28 30 45NOP 26 26 36R 6.9 6.5 6.7 8.4 9.6 3.6 5.2 5.6 6.4 12.8 4.2 3.0 4.4 6.9 15.9 5.6 7.4 6.1 4.6 12.5 2.45 2.42 2.46 2.52 2.47 2.43 2.39 2.36 2.33 2.36 Mean 2.51 2.49 2.32 2.54 2.49 2.35 2.32 2.56 2.45 2.32 Standard Deviation . 10 1.11 1.09 1.12 1.10 1.07 1.13 1.13 1.10 1.10 1.07 1.07 1.02 1.14 1.11 1.13 1.08 1.09 1.12 Standard Error .03 0.03 0.07 0.07 0.07 0.07 0.07 0.07 0.07 0.07 0.06 0.05 0.12 0.06 0.07 0.08 0.07 0.08 0.06 0.06

⁽sig=.05) (n_k) columns tested CDEFGHI, JKLM, NOPQ, RST
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How willing are people to dial a 5-digit long distance access code

